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Firearm statistics  
(updated tables)







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# FIREARM STATISTICS

(UPDATED TABLES)

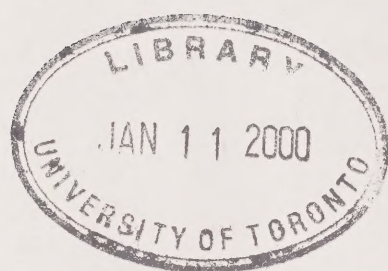
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**Table 1. Restricted Weapons, 1978-1997**  
Number of Registrations and Rate (per 100,000 population)

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>New Registrations<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Withdrawn<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Cumulative Total<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Rate</b>
1978	18,974	5,507	725,421	3,018
1979	30,422	2,790	751,775	3,097
1980	9,243	11,018	750,000	3,050
1981	14,479	7,930	756,549	3,038
1982	32,123	12,349	776,323	3,080
1983	30,121	11,375	795,069	3,123
1984	30,815	9,313	816,571	3,177
1985	33,685	9,611	840,645	3,241
1986	33,218	11,146	862,717	3,292
1987	37,343	6,555	893,505	3,365
1988	36,801	7,181	923,125	3,432
1989	33,326	9,379	947,072	3,459
1990	45,382	11,468	980,986	3,530
1991	43,310	12,495	1,011,801	3,598
1992	55,083	12,259	1,054,625	3,695
1993	55,350	13,288	1,221,179	4,219
1994	39,545	14,696	1,246,028	4,260
1995	20,165	14,423	1,251,770	4,228
1996	27,573	12,986	1,211,521	4,043
1997	23,992	23,715	1,201,640	3,968

SOURCE: RCMP: Annual Firearms Report to the Solicitor General of Canada

**NOTES:**

- 1 The number of refused/revoked registrations is usually small. In 1997, there were 2 refusals and 10 revocations. The average annual numbers for the last 10 years were 4 refusals and 5 revocations.
- 2 "Withdrawn" registrations are for those weapons that were destroyed, exported, or forfeited by law.
- 3 "Cumulative total" is the grand total of registered restricted weapons recorded in the Firearms Registration and Administration Section (FRAS) of the RCMP at the end of each year. The large increase in the cumulative total between 1992 and 1993 was due to: (a) the conversion from a manual counting system to a computer system, and (b) the inclusion of all restricted weapons registered to federal, provincial, and municipal agencies. The decrease in the cumulative total in both 1996 and 1997 was a result of a high volume of exports, de-activation and de-registration of antique firearms.

**Table 2. Firearms Acquisition Certificates<sup>1</sup> (FACs), 1979-1997**  
**Number and Rate (per 100,000 population)**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>New FACs<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>FACs Refused<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>FACs Incomplete<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>FACs Prohibited<sup>5</sup></b>
1979	251,207	1,035	930	3,598	26
1980	209,757	853	1,057	7,349	29
1981	167,537	673	944	10,291	29
1982	146,353	581	967	9,448	18
1983	133,515	524	910	8,060	18
1984	171,537	667	944	8,262	35
1985	175,979	678	1,117	10,368	54
1986	168,348	642	1,339	11,377	25
1987	165,347	623	1,413	9,583	49
1988	160,351	596	1,454	10,621	38
1989	177,398	648	1,461	10,369	34
1990	187,499	675	1,777	11,046	38
1991	199,589	710	2,072	13,850	57
1992	287,957	1,009	2,614	15,929	65
1993	80,371	278	1,241	7,508	53
1994	49,367	169	743	—	—
1995	46,797	158	340	—	—
1996 <sup>6</sup>	125,956	420	494	—	—
1997	64,934	214	749	—	—

SOURCE: RCMP: Annual Firearms Report to the Solicitor General of Canada

**NOTES:**

- 1 Data for FACs issued as replacements are not included in this table.
- 2 "New FACs" include FACs issued for a fee [Subsections 100(8) and 106(1) of the Criminal Code], and sustenance FACs, issued without a fee [Subsections 100(8) and 106(2) of the Criminal Code]. Starting in 1993, the total includes renewals before expiry.
- 3 "FACs Refused" are those applications that result in refusal without reference to a magistrate [Subsection 106(5) of the Criminal Code].
- 4 "FACs Incomplete" are those applications that result in neither issuance nor refusal. This could be caused by applicants not claiming their certificates after approval, or by the death of the applicants. Starting in 1994, this category is no longer valid because of a change in the FAC application procedure.
- 5 "FACs Prohibited" are those applications that result in prohibitions [Subsections 100(6) and 100(7) of the Criminal Code].
- 6 The large increase in new FACs in 1996 was mostly due to a special program initiated by the provincial government of Ontario which exempted applicants from taking the Canadian Firearms Safety Course in order to obtain an FAC. The lower number in 1997 was simply a reversion to previous levels.



Table 3. Firearms Permits for Restricted Weapons and Minor's Permits, 1979-1997

Number Issued

YEAR	Permits to Carry <sup>1</sup>	Permits to Transport <sup>2</sup>	TOTAL	Minor's Permits <sup>3</sup>
1979	19,119	28,121	47,240	3,998
1980	21,223	29,117	50,340	3,918
1981	22,226	38,989	61,215	3,075
1982	31,114	40,900	72,014	2,891
1983	32,586	44,204	76,790	2,897
1984	36,327	47,704	84,031	3,238
1985	38,254	49,735	87,989	2,979
1986	40,592	46,627	87,219	3,639
1987	42,885	45,573	88,458	3,263
1988	43,904	47,645	91,549	3,503
1989	45,419	52,866	98,285	3,074
1990	47,069	43,869	90,938	2,359
1991	49,537	43,357	92,894	3,795
1992	50,103	49,640	99,743	4,165
1993	53,390	48,082	101,472	4,216
1994	51,896	44,798	96,694	3,976
1995	46,045	37,778	83,823	4,813
1996	38,040	31,562	69,602	3,616
1997	37,473	30,044	67,517	3,288

SOURCE: RCMP: Annual Firearms Report to the Solicitor General of Canada

## NOTES:

- 1 Permits to carry are issued to persons who need to carry restricted firearms for reasons such as protection of life (total less than 100), use in a lawful occupation, and target practice. The individual circumstances and restrictions are specified in the permit [Subsections 110(1) and 110(2) of the Criminal Code].
- 2 Permits to transport are issued on a temporary basis to persons who need to transport restricted weapons for reasons such as a change of residence and attendance at gun shows. The individual conditions are specified in the permit [Subsection 110(3) of the Criminal Code].
- 3 Minor's permits are for possession of non-restricted weapons by persons below the age of 18. They include: (a) "minor's permits", issued to persons aged 12 to 17, under supervision [Subsection 110(7) of the Criminal Code], and (b) "minor's sustenance permits", with no minimum age requirement or conditions for supervision, in cases where the applicant requires a firearm for personal or family sustenance [Subsection 110(6) of the Criminal Code].

Table 4. Firearm Business<sup>1</sup> Permits, 1979-1997  
Number Issued

YEAR	Retail	Whole-sale	Manu-facture	Gun-smith	Pawn-broker	Ammu-nition	Stor-age	Gun Shows	TOTAL
1979	8,931	358	33	168	48	6,882	—	—	16,420
1980	5,582	173	20	122	32	4,505	—	—	10,434
1981	5,878	192	27	150	32	4,929	—	—	11,208
1982	5,304	193	25	152	25	4,664	—	—	10,363
1983	5,139	180	18	192	45	4,606	—	—	10,180
1984	4,992	160	25	192	35	4,609	—	—	10,013
1985	5,143	180	24	199	33	4,356	—	—	9,935
1986	5,157	173	22	288	46	4,511	—	—	10,197
1987	4,996	190	16	205	48	4,262	—	—	9,717
1988	5,258	194	22	247	58	4,370	—	—	10,149
1989	4,913	178	29	268	51	4,200	—	—	9,639
1990	4,680	154	18	221	80	4,056	—	—	9,209
1991	4,617	152	19	197	65	3,911	—	—	8,961
1992	4,483	137	26	206	84	3,680	—	—	8,616
1993	3,655	110	24	208	80	3,699	8	55	7,839
1994	3,221	77	15	103	105	3,919	13	74	7,527
1995	2,657	84	18	70	99	3,392	13	45	6,378
1996	2,562	85	23	127	100	3,310	19	45	6,271
1997	2,349	75	16	235	104	3,109	39	62	5,989

SOURCE: RCMP: Annual Firearms Report to the Solicitor General of Canada

**NOTE:**

<sup>1</sup> Types of firearm businesses are described in subsections 105(1), 105(2), and 105(5) of the Criminal Code.



**Table 5. Firearms Reported Lost, Missing, or Stolen, 1978-1997**  
Cumulative Totals<sup>1</sup>

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Rifles</b>	<b>Shotguns</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1978	15,911	8,019	4,496	564	28,990
1979	16,353	8,392	4,780	529	30,054
1980	17,185	9,612	5,590	606	32,995
1981	17,327	11,034	6,446	762	35,569
1982	16,309	10,590	6,389	590	33,878
1983	17,551	11,598	7,162	655	36,966
1984	18,441	12,826	7,842	700	39,809
1985	19,475	13,968	8,571	780	42,794
1986	20,514	14,992	9,197	882	45,585
1987	21,485	16,217	9,891	1,030	48,623
1988	22,107	17,159	10,378	1,052	50,696
1989	23,156	17,845	10,854	1,131	52,986
1990	24,608	18,837	11,330	1,151	55,926
1991	25,956	19,874	12,029	1,232	59,091
1992	28,070	20,305	12,419	1,331	62,125
1993	30,364	21,187	12,925	1,450	65,926
1994	32,309	21,489	13,124	1,465	68,387
1995	42,595	21,797	13,210	1,460	79,062
1996	50,142	21,993	13,476	1,432	87,043
1997 <sup>2</sup>	53,116	21,815	13,459	1,351	89,741

**SOURCE:** RCMP: Annual Firearms Report to the Solicitor General of Canada

**NOTES:**

- 1 All of the figures in this table are cumulative totals of firearms recorded, since 1974, as lost, missing, or stolen, in the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system, and whose status is unchanged at the end of each year.
- 2 At the end of 1997, of the 89,741 firearms still recorded as lost, missing, or stolen in the CPIC system, 65,946 (73%) were reported stolen, while 23,795 (27%) were reported lost or missing. During 1997 alone, a total of 6,436 firearms were reported lost, missing, or stolen; 4,183 (65%) of them were reported stolen, and 2,253 (35%) were reported lost or missing. On the other hand, 1,265 firearms were recovered, found, or seized across Canada, and recorded in the CPIC system.

**Table 6. Persons Prohibited from Possession of Firearms, 1978-1997**

Number Prohibited, Cumulative Total and Rate (per 100,000 population)

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Number of Persons Prohibited</b>	<b>Cumulative Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Rate</b>
1978	877	1,306	5
1979	1,228	3,187	13
1980	2,890	4,866	20
1981	3,228	6,799	27
1982	4,115	9,366	37
1983	5,160	12,055	47
1984	5,937	14,648	57
1985	7,084	17,446	67
1986	5,378	20,307	77
1987	5,973	22,714	86
1988	6,947	25,227	94
1989	7,554	27,499	100
1990	7,794	29,418	106
1991	9,584	32,505	116
1992	11,594	37,159	130
1993	13,664	42,219	146
1994	16,125	47,876	164
1995	17,046	52,857	179
1996	21,535	58,097	194
1997 <sup>2</sup>	14,709	63,552	210

**SOURCE:** RCMP: Annual Firearms Report to the Solicitor General of Canada

**NOTE:**

- 1 "Cumulative total" is the overall number of persons still prohibited from possessing firearms, ammunition, or explosive substances at the end of each year, recorded in the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system.
- 2 The lower number of prohibitions in 1997 was the result of a different administrative procedure of counting and not necessarily an actual decrease in prohibitions, because the total number still under prohibition continued to increase.



Table 7. Import and Export of Non-Military Firearms<sup>1</sup>, 1970-1997

Number (by type)

YEAR	IMPORT				EXPORT
	Shotguns	Rifles	Handguns <sup>2</sup>	TOTAL	TOTAL
1970	51,227	81,469	13,975	146,671	100,272
1971	55,984	76,604	24,305	156,893	76,729
1972	80,033	111,332	37,643	229,008	98,279
1973	105,650	108,093	22,475	236,218	121,304
1974	79,015	124,657	28,408	232,080	148,267
1975	114,553	126,266	32,865	273,684	119,402
1976	103,147	114,162	25,537	242,846	105,103
1977	49,420	117,108	32,891	199,419	78,233
1978	51,458	98,171	24,835	174,464	81,320
1979	62,263	102,300	24,013	188,576	70,611
1980	29,795	64,414	36,437	130,646	18,252
1981	36,736	80,468	21,947	139,151	2,991
1982	46,064	72,320	24,359	142,743	11,097
1983	40,559	65,599	22,012	128,170	9,876
1984	57,294	126,573	28,624	212,491	6,039
1985	58,796	99,454	44,050	202,300	1,659
1986	53,305	101,117	50,929	205,351	11,992
1987	39,761	105,434	49,329	194,524	36,231
1988	51,071	93,141	35,450	179,662	45,977
1989	68,930	107,984	44,438	221,352	47,999
1990	63,405	108,774	44,434	216,613	26,012
1991	49,249	77,659	27,922	154,830	21,111
1992	34,828	50,833	19,549	105,210	14,925
1993	48,437	104,357	28,745	181,539	38,110
1994	42,111	70,606	41,946	154,663	49,162
1995	20,376	53,065	34,130	107,571	80,535
1996	21,615	37,869	24,398	83,882	73,906
1997	13,966	26,952	9,179	50,097	77,568

SOURCES<sup>3</sup>: Statistics Canada: Imports by Commodity (Catalogue 65-007)

Statistics Canada: Imports – Merchandise Trade (Catalogue 65-203)

Statistics Canada: Exports by Commodity (Catalogue 65-004)

## NOTES:

- 1 Black powder (rifle) and rifle/shotgun combinations are not included in this table. The total import of such firearms is less than 5,000 a year.
- 2 "Handguns" include air pistols. The total import of such firearms is less than 2,000 a year.
- 3 Data included are located under Code 9300 in the publications.

**Table 8. Firearm Homicides<sup>1</sup>, 1974-1997**  
 Number, Rate (per 100,000 population) and Percentage of All Homicides

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>All Homicides</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Firearm Homicides</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>% of All Homicides</b>
1974	600	2.62	283	1.24	47.2
1975	701	3.02	292	1.26	41.7
1976	668	2.84	258	1.10	38.6
1977	711	2.99	260	1.09	36.6
1978	661	2.75	250	1.04	37.8
1979	631	2.60	207	0.85	32.8
1980	593	2.41	195	0.79	32.9
1981	648	2.60	199	0.80	30.7
1982	668	2.65	248	0.98	37.1
1983	682	2.68	224	0.88	32.8
1984	667	2.60	228	0.89	34.2
1985	704	2.71	222	0.86	31.5
1986	569	2.17	175	0.67	30.8
1987	642	2.42	200	0.75	31.2
1988	575	2.14	169	0.63	29.4
1989	657	2.40	218	0.80	33.2
1990	660	2.37	196	0.71	29.7
1991	756	2.69	271	0.96	35.8
1992	732	2.56	247	0.87	33.7
1993	627	2.17	195	0.67	31.0
1994	596	2.04	196	0.67	32.9
1995	588	1.99	176	0.59	29.9
1996	633	2.11	212	0.71	33.3
1997	581	1.92	193	0.64	33.2

SOURCE: Statistics Canada: Homicide Survey (unpublished tables)

**NOTE:**

- 1 The data in this table are based on police reports. Another source of homicide data is the provincial death registrations as reported by coroners and doctors. Because coroners and doctors are normally more reluctant to classify a death as homicide than the police, the numbers for homicides in this table are, in most cases, higher than the numbers in Tables 14 and 15.



**Table 9. Types of Firearms Used in Homicides, 1974-1997**

Number and Percentage of All Firearm Homicides

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Handguns</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rifles and Shotguns</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Other<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Total Number</b>
1974	76	27	180	64	27	10	283
1975	88	30	183	63	21	7	292
1976	68	26	165	64	25	10	258
1977	61	23	161	62	38	15	260
1978	63	25	177	71	10	4	250
1979	54	26	135	65	18	9	207
1980	62	32	120	62	13	7	195
1981	59	30	123	62	17	9	199
1982	88	35	146	59	14	6	248
1983	78	35	127	57	19	8	224
1984	66	29	142	62	20	9	228
1985	73	33	131	59	18	8	222
1986	38	22	114	65	23	13	175
1987	58	29	108	54	34	17	200
1988	47	28	94	56	28	17	169
1989	54	25	131	60	33	15	218
1990	69	35	99	51	28	14	196
1991	135	50	103	38	33	12	271
1992	129	52	91	37	27	11	247
1993	91	47	75	38	29	15	195
1994	90	46	66	34	40	20	196
1995	95	54	61	35	20	11	176
1996	107	51	81	38	24	11	212
1997	99	51	77	40	17	9	193

SOURCE: Statistics Canada: Homicide Survey (unpublished tables)

**NOTE:**

- 1 "Other" firearms include fully automatic firearms, sawed-off rifles and shotguns, and firearms of an unknown type.

**Table 10. Gender of Victims of Firearm Homicide, 1974-1997**  
**Number<sup>1</sup> and Percentage of All Homicides by Gender**

YEAR	All Homicides		Firearm Homicides		Firearm as % of All Homicides	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1974	376	224	196	87	52.1	38.8
1975	465	236	208	84	44.7	35.6
1976	436	232	181	77	41.5	33.2
1977	480	230	186	74	38.8	32.2
1978	446	215	186	64	41.7	29.8
1979	404	227	148	59	36.6	26.0
1980	386	206	138	57	35.8	27.7
1981	402	245	141	58	35.1	23.7
1982	447	220	168	80	37.6	36.4
1983	440	242	159	65	36.1	26.9
1984	435	232	163	65	37.5	28.0
1985	451	253	155	67	34.4	26.5
1986	364	203	111	64	30.5	31.5
1987	417	226	134	68	32.1	30.1
1988	374	202	123	46	32.9	22.8
1989	410	246	144	74	35.1	30.1
1990	423	237	150	46	35.5	19.4
1991	484	270	186	85	38.4	31.4
1992	487	245	178	69	36.6	28.2
1993	419	208	150	45	35.8	21.5
1994	396	199	157	39	39.6	19.6
1995	393	195	133	43	33.8	22.1
1996	434	199	150	61	34.6	30.7
1997 <sup>2</sup>	376	204	141	51	37.5	25.0

SOURCE: Statistics Canada: Homicide Survey (unpublished tables)

**NOTES:**

- 1 The total numbers for males and females may not add up to the total number of homicide victims in Table 8, because the gender of the victim may be unknown in some cases.
- 2 Example for the above data: In 1997, there were 376 male homicide victims; 141 of these were victims of firearm homicide, accounting for 37.5% of all male homicide victims.



Table 11. Age of Victims of Firearm Homicide, 1974-1997

Number<sup>1</sup> and Percentage of All Homicides by Age Group

YEAR	Number of Firearm Homicides					Firearm as % of All Homicides				
	<12	12-17	18-34	35-54	55+	<12	12-17	18-34	35-54	55+
1974	15	12	144	85	26	28.3	41.4	57.4	49.1	28.6
1975	9	14	166	81	21	18.8	32.6	53.5	41.5	20.4
1976	7	11	136	73	30	11.1	30.6	51.5	38.4	26.3
1977	5	18	146	68	22	8.3	52.9	47.4	34.9	19.5
1978	12	11	129	74	20	17.9	33.3	45.6	39.4	24.1
1979	5	11	109	60	22	8.5	27.5	39.9	37.0	23.2
1980	7	6	100	61	21	17.5	25.0	38.8	34.9	22.8
1981	9	16	92	65	17	16.1	34.8	35.4	34.4	17.9
1982	6	18	127	68	29	12.0	48.6	43.2	36.2	29.6
1983	7	6	108	76	27	12.3	21.4	37.9	36.9	26.0
1984	12	4	111	72	29	16.4	18.2	37.1	41.1	29.6
1985	6	11	116	63	26	10.3	33.3	36.8	30.3	28.9
1986	16	9	75	60	15	27.1	34.6	31.9	36.8	17.4
1987	8	8	92	76	18	17.4	30.8	33.7	41.3	15.7
1988	7	5	88	51	18	15.2	25.0	35.5	28.5	21.7
1989	6	15	113	58	26	12.0	41.7	40.6	31.7	23.9
1990	5	11	101	55	24	10.4	32.4	34.9	28.5	25.0
1991	11	10	132	89	29	23.9	27.8	41.8	37.2	24.8
1992	3	8	121	91	24	5.2	28.6	41.2	34.5	27.6
1993	3	7	94	74	17	6.5	31.8	33.3	37.8	21.0
1994	3	7	101	60	25	5.1	18.9	39.6	36.4	31.3
1995	7	7	73	72	17	13.2	33.3	34.6	33.3	20.0
1996	5	15	88	86	17	9.4	50.0	37.3	36.3	22.1
1997 <sup>2</sup>	6	11	94	61	21	9.4	34.4	42.7	35.1	23.1

SOURCE: Statistics Canada: Homicide Survey (unpublished tables)

## NOTES:

- 1 The total numbers for all age groups may not add up to the total number of homicide victims in Table 8, because the victim's age may be unknown in some cases.
- 2 Example for the above data: In 1997, there were 21 firearm homicide victims aged 55 and older, accounting for 23.1% of all homicide victims in that age group.

Table 12. Firearm Robbery, 1974-1997

Number, Rate (per 100,000 population) and Percentage of All Robbery

YEAR	All Robbery	Rate	Firearm Robbery	Rate	%	Other Weapons <sup>1</sup>	Rate	%
1974	16,955	74	5,861	26	34.6	2,809	12	16.6
1975	21,299	92	8,962	39	42.1	3,503	15	16.4
1976	20,050	85	7,908	34	39.4	3,371	14	16.8
1977	19,491	82	7,507	32	38.5	3,350	14	17.2
1978	19,673	82	7,203	30	36.6	3,338	14	17.0
1979	20,899	86	7,439	31	35.6	3,806	16	18.2
1980	24,581	100	8,594	35	35.0	4,763	19	19.4
1981	26,292	106	9,040	36	34.4	5,455	22	20.7
1982	27,257	108	8,954	36	32.9	6,161	24	22.6
1983	24,274	95	7,505	29	30.9	5,789	23	23.8
1984	23,310	91	6,886	27	29.5	5,826	23	25.0
1985	22,752	88	6,789	26	29.8	5,578	22	24.5
1986	23,268	89	6,710	26	28.8	6,183	24	26.6
1987	22,523	85	5,960	22	26.5	5,772	22	25.6
1988	24,249	90	6,086	23	25.1	6,705	25	27.7
1989	25,709	94	6,442	24	25.1	7,472	27	29.1
1990	28,051	101	7,414	27	26.4	7,743	28	27.6
1991	33,225	118	8,995	32	27.1	9,430	34	28.4
1992	33,186	116	8,726	31	26.3	10,796	38	32.5
1993	29,961	104	8,044	28	26.8	9,719	34	32.4
1994	28,888	99	7,371	25	25.5	9,336	32	32.3
1995	30,273	102	6,692	23	22.1	10,136	34	33.5
1996	31,242	104	6,646	22	21.3	10,322	34	33.0
1997	29,590	98	5,478	18	18.5	9,933	33	33.6

SOURCE: Statistics Canada: Canadian Crime Statistics (Catalogue 85-205)

## NOTE:

1 "Other weapons" include all non-firearm weapons, such as knives.



Table 13. Offensive Weapon Offences, 1974-1997

Number (by type) and Rate (per 100,000 population)

YEAR	Prohibited Weapon <sup>1</sup>	Restricted Weapon <sup>2</sup>	Other Weapon <sup>3</sup>	Explosives <sup>4</sup>	TOTAL	Rate
1974	804	1,812	7,914	282	10,812	47
1975	1,112	2,068	9,014	384	12,578	54
1976	1,591	2,065	9,361	495	13,512	57
1977	1,524	2,008	9,534	366	13,432	56
1978	2,091	2,713	10,897	412	16,113	67
1979	1,988	1,837	11,012	461	15,298	63
1980	2,166	1,812	11,522	438	15,938	65
1981	2,709	2,047	12,437	513	17,706	71
1982	3,011	1,863	12,314	472	17,660	70
1983	3,156	1,859	10,945	457	16,417	64
1984	3,374	1,855	10,416	374	16,019	62
1985	3,270	2,176	10,743	451	16,640	64
1986	3,566	2,409	10,457	590	17,022	65
1987	3,242	2,566	10,687	540	17,035	64
1988	3,364	2,390	10,791	448	16,993	63
1989	3,244	2,393	11,064	450	17,151	63
1990	3,463	2,775	11,846	490	18,574	67
1991	3,513	3,109	12,584	496	19,702	70
1992	3,022	2,541	11,694	454	17,711	62
1993	3,579	2,146	12,500	447	18,672	65
1994	3,567	2,290	12,614	448	18,919	65
1995	3,381	1,908	11,592	621	17,502	59
1996	2,948	1,845	10,807	532	16,132	54
1997	2,711	1,763	11,101	504	16,079	53

SOURCE: Statistics Canada: Canadian Crime Statistics (Catalogue 85-205)

## NOTES:

- 1 "Prohibited weapon" offences include carrying, pointing, or possessing prohibited weapons, such as automatic firearms, silencers, or spring knives.
- 2 "Restricted weapon" offences include carrying, pointing, or possessing restricted weapons without permits.
- 3 "Other weapon" offences include carrying or pointing non-restricted firearms, such as shotguns and rifles, and knives.
- 4 "Explosives" offences include the illegal use of dangerous substances, such as dynamite.

**Table 14. Firearm Deaths<sup>1</sup>, 1970-1996**  
Number (by type) and Rate (per 100,000 population)

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Accidents</b>	<b>Suicides</b>	<b>Homicidal Deaths</b>	<b>Legal Intervention</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1970	129	796	184	11	16	1,136	5.2
1971	143	924	190	14	27	1,298	5.9
1972	102	935	203	7	21	1,268	5.7
1973	123	950	213	10	35	1,331	5.9
1974	122	1,021	269	8	47	1,467	6.4
1975	111	1,053	263	8	87	1,522	6.6
1976	89	1,095	220	7	70	1,481	6.3
1977	100	1,271	229	10	93	1,703	7.2
1978	90	1,287	229	16	94	1,716	7.1
1979	71	1,098	183	15	62	1,429	5.9
1980	74	1,119	184	6	43	1,426	5.8
1981	62	1,171	180	7	55	1,475	5.9
1982	56	1,197	213	6	58	1,530	6.1
1983	41	1,235	197	11	33	1,517	6.0
1984	60	1,050	214	15	34	1,373	5.3
1985	63	1,038	179	14	27	1,321	5.1
1986	50	1,185	170	3	28	1,436	5.5
1987	60	1,124	187	14	39	1,424	5.4
1988	60	1,067	151	9	29	1,316	4.9
1989	77	1,076	195	7	12	1,367	5.0
1990	66	1,054	182	9	13	1,324	4.8
1991	66	1,109	240	13	16	1,444	5.1
1992	63	1,048	214	8	21	1,354	4.7
1993	44	1,053	173	5	11	1,286	4.4
1994	38	973	170	4	14	1,199	4.1
1995	49	911	145	6	14	1,125	3.8
1996	46	881	177	6	21	1,131	3.8

SOURCE: Statistics Canada: Causes of Death<sup>2</sup> (Catalogue 84-208)

**NOTES:**

- 1 The data in this table are based on provincial death registrations as reported by coroners and doctors. Because coroners and doctors are normally more reluctant to classify a death as homicide than the police, numbers for homicides in this table are, in most cases, lower than the numbers in Table 8.
- 2 Firearm deaths include the following groups in the publication:
  - Accidents E922
  - Suicides E955 (excluding E955.5 – Explosives)
  - Homicidal deaths E965 (excluding E965.5 to E965.9 – Explosives)
  - Legal intervention E970 (i.e., shot by police)
  - Undetermined E985 (excluding 985.5 – Explosives)



Table 15. Homicidal Deaths and Suicides Involving Firearms<sup>1</sup>, 1970-1996  
Number (by type) and Percentage of All Homicidal Deaths and Suicides

YEAR	Homicidal Deaths			Suicides		
	All	Firearm	Firearm as % of All Homicidal Deaths	All	Firearm	Firearm as % of All Suicides
1970	421	184	43.7	2,413	796	33.0
1971	458	190	41.5	2,559	924	36.1
1972	505	203	40.2	2,657	935	35.2
1973	529	213	40.3	2,773	950	34.3
1974	543	269	49.5	2,902	1,021	35.2
1975	604	263	43.5	2,808	1,053	37.5
1976	556	220	39.6	2,935	1,095	37.3
1977	597	229	38.4	3,317	1,271	38.3
1978	570	229	40.2	3,475	1,287	37.0
1979	583	183	31.4	3,357	1,098	32.7
1980	495	184	37.2	3,358	1,119	33.3
1981	560	180	32.1	3,403	1,171	34.4
1982	592	213	36.0	3,523	1,197	34.0
1983	592	197	33.3	3,755	1,235	32.9
1984	580	214	36.9	3,440	1,050	30.5
1985	537	179	33.3	3,259	1,038	31.9
1986	513	170	33.1	3,670	1,185	32.3
1987	565	187	33.1	3,594	1,124	31.3
1988	487	151	31.0	3,510	1,067	30.4
1989	552	195	35.3	3,492	1,076	30.8
1990	554	182	32.9	3,379	1,054	31.2
1991	622	240	38.6	3,593	1,109	30.9
1992	597	214	35.8	3,709	1,048	28.3
1993	526	173	32.9	3,803	1,053	27.7
1994	498	170	34.1	3,749	973	26.0
1995	489	145	29.7	3,970	911	22.9
1996	511	177	34.6	3,941	881	22.4

SOURCE: Statistics Canada: Causes of Death (Catalogue 84-208)

**NOTE:**

- <sup>1</sup> The data in this table are based on provincial death registrations as reported by coroners and doctors. Because coroners and doctors are normally more reluctant to classify a death as homicide than the police, numbers for homicides in this table are, in most cases, lower than the numbers in Table 8.

**Table 16. Age of Victims of Firearm Suicide, 1970-1996**  
**Number<sup>1</sup> and Percentage of All Suicides by Age Group**

YEAR	Firearm Suicides				Firearm as % of All Suicides			
	0-14	15-34	35-54	55+	0-14	15-34	35-54	55+
1970	5	297	301	193	29.4	37.0	31.4	30.5
1971	9	362	342	211	50.0	41.8	33.6	32.1
1972	8	436	316	174	34.8	42.4	32.0	28.3
1973	9	431	306	204	37.5	42.3	31.0	27.5
1974	6	504	330	181	35.3	42.5	31.8	27.4
1975	7	502	318	221	28.0	43.0	33.2	33.9
1976	4	578	317	189	18.2	44.9	32.3	29.8
1977	12	679	365	213	36.4	46.2	33.4	30.3
1978	12	675	369	228	38.7	42.9	34.6	28.7
1979	3	616	302	177	13.0	40.6	28.7	23.3
1980	6	569	321	222	28.6	38.4	31.2	26.9
1981	11	604	316	240	31.4	41.3	30.2	28.1
1982	10	606	337	244	35.7	38.7	30.9	29.3
1983	6	599	332	298	26.1	36.7	29.2	30.9
1984	7	490	300	252	25.0	33.3	27.7	29.5
1985	5	489	301	243	27.8	35.0	29.3	29.9
1986	8	562	355	260	32.0	35.8	30.0	29.2
1987	9	512	338	263	30.0	33.7	28.8	30.2
1988	8	467	331	261	28.6	31.3	28.8	31.0
1989	7	469	344	256	28.0	32.1	29.4	30.7
1990	10	471	340	233	33.3	32.8	28.9	31.7
1991	13	482	336	278	44.8	32.0	27.0	34.2
1992	8	477	340	223	23.5	31.4	25.3	27.4
1993	14	404	381	254	31.1	27.9	25.9	30.3
1994	13	339	373	248	26.5	24.5	25.1	30.0
1995	2	329	341	238	4.7	22.1	21.0	29.4
1996 <sup>2</sup>	9	273	351	248	22.0	20.3	20.6	29.2

SOURCE: Statistics Canada: Causes of Death (Catalogue 84-208)

**NOTES:**

- 1 The total numbers for all age groups may not add up to the total number of firearm suicides in Table 15, because the victim's age may be unknown in some cases.
- 2 Example for the above data: In 1996, there were 248 firearm suicide victims aged 55 and older, accounting for 29.2% of all suicide victims in that age group.



Table 17. Hospitalization Resulting from Firearm Injuries<sup>1</sup>, 1981/82 to 1995/96Number<sup>2</sup> (by type) and Rate (per 100,000 population)

FISCAL YEAR	Accident	Injured by Self	Injured by Others	Legal Intervention	Undetermined	TOTAL <sup>3</sup>	Rate
1981/82	877	280	111	13	224	1,505	6.0
1982/83	753	275	124	23	181	1,356	5.4
1983/84	731	304	148	11	200	1,394	5.5
1984/85	723	288	163	16	205	1,395	5.4
1985/86	636	325	157	11	179	1,308	5.0
1986/87	677	292	157	18	155	1,299	5.0
1987/88	609	312	153	15	163	1,252	4.7
1988/89	602	291	153	15	149	1,210	4.5
1989/90	597	321	145	12	172	1,247	4.6
1990/91	581	264	208	19	145	1,217	4.4
1991/92	564	326	269	13	139	1,311	4.7
1992/93	528	277	239	19	130	1,193	4.2
1993/94	481	276	249	20	99	1,125	3.9
1994/95	429	315	264	14	93	1,115	3.8
1995/96	342	245	216	16	62	881	3.0

SOURCE: Hospital Morbidity Survey (unpublished reports) - Statistics Canada (1981/82 to 1993/94), Canadian Institute for Health Information (1994/95 to 1995/96)

**NOTES:**

1 The data in this table are releases (separations) from hospitals. They include the following groups:

- Accident E922
- Injured by self E955
- Injured by others E965
- Legal intervention E970 (i.e., shot by police)
- Undetermined E985

2 Data are not available for: Prince Edward Island, from 1983/84 to 1985/86; and New Brunswick, from 1988/89 to 1993/94. For 1981/82 and 1982/83, data from British Columbia only include firearm accidents. It is estimated that the Canadian totals for those two years were about 110 cases higher than shown in the table (including 50 injuries by others, 30 injuries by self, and 30 with undetermined causes).

3 These totals include injuries caused by explosives, which account for about 10 to 15 cases per year.











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